

Remarks/Arguments

This amendment is made for the purpose of placing provisionally allowed claim 2 in independent form, complying with a matter of form regarding claim 5 and placing the remaining claims in better form for consideration by the Examiner, and entry of this amendment under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.116 is respectfully requested.

The provisional allowance of claim 2 is acknowledged with appreciation. In this connection, claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form as new claim 8, and favorable action on new claim 8 is respectfully requested.

Claim 5 has been amended in a manner believed to overcome the rejection under 35 USC 112.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1 and 3-6 under 35 USC 103 based on Sadowsky (3,614,737) and Butler (4,357,597) is respectfully requested for the following reasons. The Examiner relies on two portions of the same component in Sadowsky, i.e. the end 72 and a surface of the single guide post 70, as a disclosure of a stop post and a guide post. However, applicants take the significantly different approach of physically separate guide post and stop post, and claim 1 has been amended to point out this distinction over Sadowsky.

The proposed combination of Butler and Sadowsky described on pages 4 and 5 of the Office Action would result in elimination of the pressure plate 76 and spring-biased connecting shaft 88 of Sadowsky. These components are provided by Sadowsky for the purpose of precluding skew misorientation.

However, it is well established that if a proposed modification of a reference would render it unsatisfactory for its intended purpose, then there is no suggestion or motivation to make the proposed modification. In re Gordon, 221 USPQ115 (Fed. Cir. 1984); MPEP § 2143,01.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that it would not be obvious to combine Sadowsky and Butler and that even if the proposed combination were to be made it would not result in applicants' claimed invention.

Regarding dependent claim 4, neither Sadowsky nor Butler, alone or in combination, discloses physically separate left-hand guide posts and stop posts and physically separate right-hand guide posts and stop posts on a scanner surface in the manner claimed by applicants.

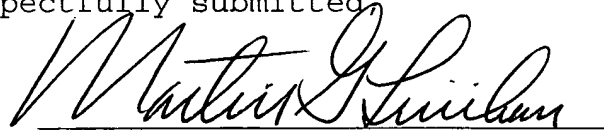
New dependent claim 7 is added to cover an additional aspect of applicants' claimed invention noted upon review of the instant application.

In view of the foregoing, claims 1-7 as amended are believed to patentably distinguish over Sadowsky and Butler within the meaning of 35 USC 103.

Favorable action on this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Martin G. Linihan", is written over a horizontal line.

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